

House Resolution 1754

By: Representatives Rogers of the 26th, Collins of the 27th, Mills of the 25th, and Benton of the 31st

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Harold DeLong; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Mr. Harold DeLong; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. DeLong was born in Gainesville, Georgia, graduated from Gainesville High
5 School, where he was a stellar football player, and attended the University of Georgia, where
6 he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity; and

7 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty as a United States
8 Naval aviator, valiantly and courageously protecting democracy and his fellow Americans
9 during World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, the youngest son of pioneering auto dealer Frank W. DeLong, Sr., Mr. DeLong
11 and his brothers, who also served as aviators in World War II, returned home from war and
12 joined the family business, which expanded to include a Firestone tire dealership under the
13 name DeLong Home and Auto; and

14 WHEREAS, a committed public servant, Mr. DeLong served on the Gainesville City
15 Commission as mayor pro tem, on the Gainesville Board of Education as chairman, and with
16 the Kiwanis Club, the Elks Club, and the Chattahoochee Country Club; and

17 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. DeLong was a lifelong member of First
18 Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and uplifted the congregation with his voice as
19 a member of the choir; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. DeLong was united in love and marriage to the late Virginia Smith DeLong
21 and was blessed with two wonderful children, Hal and Ginger, and three remarkable
22 grandchildren, Louise, Steve, and Jay; and

23 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
24 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
25 family and friends were admired by others; and

26 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
27 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he
28 made this world a better place in which to live; and

29 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. DeLong will long be remembered for
30 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal father, grandfather, brother, and friend will
31 be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. Harold DeLong and
34 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Harold
37 DeLong.